

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1862

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FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY RYAN ARA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, UY

SUBJ: REPORTED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ACTION ON URUGUAY

REF: BRAZEAL/OLSON TELCON

1. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING REFERENCED TELCON I CALLED ON A PROMINENT EUROPEAN AMBASSADOR. HE TOLD ME HE HAD HAD NO REPEAT NO REPORT OF ANY EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ACTION AGAINST URUGUAY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DOUBTED IT VERY MUCH AS COMMON MARKET AMBASSADORS HERE HAD NOT REPEAT NOT RECOMMENDED IT. HE SAID THE DANISH AMBASSADRESS (RESIDENT IN BUENOS AIRES) WHOSE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN STIMULATED BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, CAME HERE AND CALLED A MEETING TO SUGGEST SUCH ACTION AND THAT IT HAD GOTTEN NOWHERE.

2. HE ADDED THAT SOME, BUT NOT ALL SO FAR, OF THE AMBASSADORS HAVE NOW BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONSULT TOGETHER AND RECOMMEND TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS WHETHER THEY THINK CONCERTED ACTION OF SOME KIND TAKEN LOCALLY WOULD BE ADVISABLE. THIS CONSULTATION HAS NOT YET TAKEN PLACE, HE SAID, BECAUSE SKME HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS.

3. ASKED WHAT HE THOUGHT THE COMMON VIEW MIGHT BE, THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE DOUBTED THERE COULD BE AN AGREEMENT ON

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SIGNIFICANT ACTION. WHAT HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT MIGHT BE AGREED

ON AND WOULD RECOMMEND WOULD BE THE LOWEST POSSIBLE LEVEL REPRESENTATION TO URUGUAY ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP, EXPRESSING CONCERN OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS OVER REPORTED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. BEING SPECIFIC, HE SAID THAT SINCE HOLLAND WAS NOW CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP HERE AND THE AMBASSADOR ABSENT, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE IN HIS VIEW FOR THE DUTCH CHARGE D'AFFAIRES TO TAKE THE ACTION WHICH HE FORESEES AS POSSIBLE WITH THE UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. BUT HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS NOT CERTAIN AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED TO GO EVEN THIS FAR.

4. WHEN ASKED FOR HIS OWN PERSONAL VIEW HE SAID HE THOUGHT THIS LOW-LEVEL APPROACH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE AS FAR AS HIS GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED BUT THAT HE WAS GOING TO RECOMMEND IN THE MOST STRONG TERMS THAT IT WOULD BE AGAINST THE INTEREST OF HIS OWN GOVERNMENT AND OF THE COMMON MARKET GROUP AS SUCH TO BECOME IDENTIFIED WITH THE PROGRAM OF AI WHICH HE CONSIDERED TO BE UNOBJECTIVE, BIASED AND EXAGGERATED.

5. THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF A MAJOR EUROPEAN COUNTRY WAS ALSO CONSULTED. HE LIKewise HAD NO WORD AS TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ACTION. BUT HE DID SAY THAT THE GROUP HERE HAD CONSULTED AND AGREED SPECIFICALLY TO RECOMMEND AGAINST ANY SUCH ACTION BECAUSE AS HE SAID "THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION WAS NOT AS BAD AS IT HAD BEEN (WE ASSUMED HE REFERRED TO THE DANISH INITIATIVE). WHAT IS NOW GOING ON, HE SAID, IS PROSPECTIVE (WHEN ALL ARE INSTRUCTED) CONSULTATION AS TO WHETHER ANY CONCERTED ACTION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL COULD BE AGREED UPON AND RECOMMENDED. THIS COINCIDES WITH THE AMBASSADOR'S VERSION OUTLINED ABOVE.

6. COMMENT: ASKED WHETHER CURRENT DISCUSSION OF WHETHER TO TAKE UP THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS SUCH WITH THE GOU MEANS THAT, IN GENERATING THE EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS HERE, INDIVIDUALLY, HAVE NOT YET DONE SO, THE AMBASSADOR QUERIED SAID THAT WAS TRUE. FOR HIS OWN PART, HE SAID, HE AND OTHERS IN HIS EMBASSY (AS HAS OTHER EUROPEAN EMBASSIES) HAVE TAKEN UP SPECIFIC CASES OF THEIR NATIONALS DETAINED, BUT THEY HAVE NOT GENERALLY MADE REPRESENTATION ON SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS ITSELF. IT IS OBVIOUS, ALSO, THAT THIS SUBJECT IS BEING APPROACHED SOMEWHAT GINGERLY. I AM SURE THE DEPARTMENT CAN SEE THIS IN STARK CONTRAST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO THE FACT THAT THIS EMBASSY HAS FOR A VERY LONG TIME BEEN ENGAGED IN SERIOUS, DIRECT AND COMPREHENSIVE REPRESENTATIONS WITH GOU OFFICIALS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, BEGINNING WITH THE AMBASSADOR'S FIRST INTRODUCTION TO THE SUBJECT WITH PRESIDENT BORDABERRY IN DECEMBER 1973. SIRACUSA

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